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DE RUEHMK #0706 1150533  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 250533Z APR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4558  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANAMA 000706

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/ESC/TFS FOR BADKINS, S/CT FOR VNICHOLS,  
NEA/ARP  
TREASURY FOR DGLASER AND OFAC FOR RWERNER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [EFIN](#) [KJUS](#) [KTFN](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [BA](#) [REGION](#)  
CTR  
SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: COMMERCIAL BANK OF SYRIA PATRIOT ACT  
DESIGNATION

REF: STATE 58728

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY. NOT  
FOR INTERNET DISTRIBUTION.

11. (SBU) Econoff and TreasAtt April 19 delivered reftel  
demarche to Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) Compliance Director  
Ahmed Bumtaia. Bumtaia promised to review the non-paper and  
affirmed his commitment to protecting the integrity of  
Bahrain's financial system. He assured Emboffs there would  
be "no relaxing" of the BMA's commitment to a "clean system."  
He also pledged to support and enhance BMA cooperation with  
the U.S. on terror finance issues and noted that the  
Anti-Money Laundering Unit, which had been overseen by the  
Ministry of Finance, now fell under the auspices of the BMA.  
Bumtaia said he planned to increase the Compliance  
Directorate's staff from five to fifteen.

12. (U) Bio Note: Ahmed Jassim Bumtaia replaced Khalid  
Al-Jaber as BMA Compliance Unit Director in January. The  
change coincides with an upgrade of the Compliance Unit to a  
Directorate. He has been with the BMA for ten years and was  
Head of Economic Research for the past three years, prior to  
assuming his present position. Bumtaia was a member of  
Bahrain's U.S. - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement negotiating  
team. End Note.

MONROE